

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. In an online information exchange, a method of aggregating information comprising the steps of:
 - receiving and posting a first question from a first user;
 - receiving a bid from a bidder containing the terms of a proposed answer to said question;
 - receiving acceptance of said bid from said bidder;
 - receiving said answer from said bidder and making said answer available to said first user in consideration of said bidder's provision of rights in said answer to a website owner;
 - archiving said received answer in an archival file;
 - receiving a second question from a second user and recognizing that said second question is essentially similar to said first question;
 - accessing said archival file and transmitting to said second user an offer to provide said first answer;
 - receiving acceptance of said offer from said second user; and
 - delivering said answer to said second user in exchange for consideration flowing from said second user to said website owner and said bidder.
2. An online information exchange comprising:
 - a website, under the control of a website owner, for receiving and posting a first question from a first user, said website also receiving a bid from a bidder containing the terms of a proposed answer to said question;
 - said website receiving acceptance of said bid from said first user, said website further receives an answer from said bidder and makes it available to said first user in consideration of said bidder's provision of rights to said website owner;
 - an archival file system for storing said received answer;

said website receives a second question from a second user and recognizing that said second question is essentially similar to said first question;

said website owner transmits to said second user an offer to provide said first answer and awaits acceptance of said offer from said second user; and wherein, said website owner causes said website to access said archival file and deliver said answer to said second user in exchange for consideration flowing from said second user to said website owner and said bidder.

3. A self-aggregating information exchange protocol, said protocol comprises:

providing a website for receiving and supplying information; and

providing a website owner for controlling the website, wherein said website receives a first question from a first user and a proposed answer from a bidder, once the website owner receives an offer of acceptance from said first user and payment thereof, said website owner then causes said website to receive a full answer to the said question from said bidder and stores said received answer in an archival file.

4. The self-aggregating information exchange protocol as claimed in claim 3 wherein said protocol further comprises:

causing said website to access said archival file and provide said full answer to said first user and pay compensation to said bidder.

5. The self-aggregating information exchange protocol as claimed in claim 4 wherein said protocol further comprises:

providing a second question to said website from a second user and recognizing that said second question is essentially similar to said first question; and

transmitting to said second user an offer to provide said first answer and await acceptance of said offer from said second user, wherein said website owner causes said website to deliver said answer from said archival file to said second user in exchange for compensation from said second user to said website owner and said bidder.